

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

An Abstract of the Disclosure on a separate sheet has been supplied, as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b).

The specification has been amended to replace "41" in line 31 of page 16 with --43-- to obviate the objections to the drawings.

Claims 1-19 have been canceled in favor of new claims 20-39, to obviate the objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,882,564 to Puppín.

The instant application has an effective filing date of April 27, 1995, which date is indicated on the filing receipt. The Puppín reference has an effective date of June 24, 1996, after April 27, 1995, and therefore cannot be properly used against this application.

35 U.S.C. 363 provides that an international application designating the United States shall have the effect, from its international filing date under Article 11 of the treaty, of a national application for patent regularly filed in the Patent and Trademark Office except as otherwise provided in section 102(e) of this title (relating to the ability to cite the patent issuing from this application against later filed applications).

Similarly, PCT Article 11(3) provides that an international filing date shall have the effect of a regular national application in each designated State as of

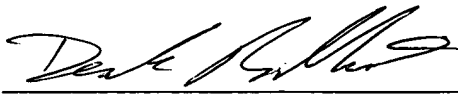
the international filing date, which date shall be considered to be the actual filing date in each designated State.

Therefore, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 20-39 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application Serial No. 09/171,910
Filing Date March 18, 1999
Inventor Dirk Van Dijk et al.
Assignee Tech-Wood International Limited
Group Art Unit 1772
Examiner A. Chevalier
Attorney's Docket No. VR2-002
Title: Plastic-Based Composite Product and Method and Apparatus for
Manufacturing Same

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING
RESPONSE TO JANUARY 19, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

In the Specification

The replacement specification paragraphs incorporate the following amendments. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

The paragraph beginning at line 30 on page 16 has been amended as follows:

Downstream of this latter bundle 40 is situated the mould head 43 ~~44~~ of the compushtruder 21. By means of calibrating and cooling means the product is then cooled gradually while a sufficient pressure is maintained, and is carried to the outside in the correct dimensions. Product 42 according to figure 3 has an orientation of the long fibres corresponding with the mould longitudinal direction.

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

Claims 1-19 have been canceled.

Claims 20-39 have been added.

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